

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In Figs 1 and 2, please add the reference numerals as indicated in the enclosed sheets labeled "Replacement Sheet" that accompany this response as an Appendix. In the replacement sheets, the reference numerals 21, 23, 25, 27 and 29 are added in order to point to various aspects of the cordset illustrated therein.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 23 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended in this response. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the comments below.

I. ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS 3-12 AND 23

Applicants note with consideration the allowance of claims 3-12 and the provisional allowance of claim 23 (if amended into independent form). Claim 23 has been amended into independent form, and is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

II. REQUEST FOR ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION, CLAIMS AND DRAWINGS

In response to the Advisory Action of December 1, 2004, amendments have been made to the specification, claims and drawings in order to address the issues raised therein. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not constitute new matter, but rather such amendments are directed to pointing out structure that was illustrated in the drawings as originally filed, and would be fully appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art.

For example, Figs. 1 and 2 clearly illustrate a cordset (now designated at reference numeral 21) that extends between the controller 34 through a portion of the burner housing 12 and a valve 19 associated with the pump 18. In addition, the specification as originally filed, for example, on page 3, lines 5-10 and page 8, lines 16-26, discuss an exemplary positional and functional relationship of the cordset and the controller and valve components, respectively. Therefore the subject matter added in this response to page 8 of the specification does not constitute new matter, but rather merely describes what is clearly illustrated and described, and which would be readily apparent and appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art.

In addition, the subject matter added to amended claim 1 does not constitute new matter, but instead is a recitation of structure associated with the cordset that is illustrated in both Figs. 1 and 2. Since such amendments do not constitute new matter, entry of such amendments is respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIM 1 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,906,294 (Lourigan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,544,349 (Nakamura et al.). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

i. Lourigan does not teach a voltage or temperature independent timer circuit in an electric cord set as recited in claim 1.

In the Advisory Action, an overly broad interpretation of a cordset was given to the Lourigan reference, wherein the Advisory Action asserted that no structure resides in claim 1 to define the cordset. Claim 1 has been amended to recite a cordset comprising first and second ends, wherein the second end comprises a plug housing portion that couples to the valve associated with the pump. Exemplary structure of such a plug housing portion is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 as originally filed.

Lourigan does not teach or suggest such a cord set as recited in claim 1. Rather, ***the reference teaches a timer circuit that is integrated within the solenoid valve.*** Lourigan discloses a solenoid valve having a delay associated therewith, wherein the solenoid valve comprises a housing 62 with a timer therein (see Lourigan, Figs. 3 and 4). The valve has leads 68 that couple to the controller (not shown) while the valve is operably associated with a pump (not shown). The cited reference further teaches a delay circuit residing on a printed circuit board (PCB) 74 that resides within the solenoid valve housing 62 (see, e.g., Fig. 4 and Col. 5, lns. 34-41). ***No cord set having a plug housing portion comprising a timer circuit therein as recited in claim 1 is taught or suggested by the reference. To the extent that one could***

attempt to interpret the leads 68 leading to the valve housing 62 as a cord set, the delay circuit is clearly not within the leads, but instead is on the PCB within the solenoid housing 62. Clearly then, the cited art does not teach or suggest a timer circuit within a plug housing portion the cord set as claimed.

The Office Action states that the solenoid housing package is properly considered to be part of an electric cord set. This statement is incorrect. Applicants' specification clearly differentiates between a valve and a cord set (see, e.g., Fig. 1, with a valve 19 on a pump 18, with a cord set coupled between the valve 19 and a controller), and one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand the meaning of the term cord set and that a cord set is distinguishable from a valve, particularly in light of applicants' specification. As discussed in the specification, and as appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art, such distinction provides advantages over the solution of Lourigan. For example, such increased size can be disadvantageous in some circumstances where the size of the oil burner system is at issue, or when the burner is to be covered by an enclosure. In contrast, having the timer circuit in the cord set according to the present invention advantageously permits the timer to be utilized in conjunction with various makes and models of solenoid valve. Therefore Lourigan does not teach a timer circuit ***within an electric cord set*** as claimed.

Since neither Lourigan et al. nor Nakamura et al. teach or suggest this feature, the present invention is non-obvious and thus patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


IV. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, RWBP101US.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or item referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: December 13, 2004


Christine Gillroy